

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 14, 15, and 17 are pending in the present application. Claims 12, 13 and 16 are herein canceled. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 17 are herein amended. No new matter has been added. In light of the forgoing amendments, and the following remarks, Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration.

On the Merits

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101:

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because they are allegedly directed toward non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 6, 14 and 17 have been amended to include a “processing device” and/or a “storage unit.” Claims 12, 13 and 16 are canceled. As such, Applicants respectfully submit the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is moot.

Applicants ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph:

Claims 6, 12, 13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 12, 13 and 16 are canceled. Claim 6 has been amended to recite “receiving identification information.” As such, Applicants respectfully submit the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph is moot.

Applicants ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 6-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended and canceled the rejected claims in order to clarify the claimed invention.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is fully supported by the specification. Specifically, in the specification, a parking meter as an example of a system of billing (page 6, lines 22-24) and that a mobile phone transmits a command including the identification number of the parking meter to a center device (page 12, lines 7 - page 13, line 5) is disclosed. Therefore, the feature of transmitting the identification information of a system of billing is disclosed in the specification.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph. Applicants ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Admasu et al.* (US Patent Application 2002/0032601), in view of *Andersen* (US Patent 5,974,453), hereinafter referred to as *Admasu* and *Andersen* respectively.

Application No.: 10/662,324
Art Unit: 3692

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 030192A

Claims 2, 3 and 6-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Admasu et al.* (US Patent Application 2002/0032601), in view of *Andersen* (US Patent 5,974,453), and further in view of *Allen* (US Patent Application 2002/0147673).

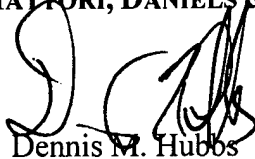
In each of independent claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 17, Applicants have included the phrase, "transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system with the retrieved address information to the system." Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not disclosed or fairly suggested by the cited references. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Dennis M. Hubbs

Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 59,145
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

DMH/mra